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# Killian-Taylor Checkup Is Just What CIA Needs

**P**RESIDENT KENNEDY'S decision to put new life into an inactive board which is supposed to review all phases of foreign intelligence seems to substantiate reports that sweeping changes are near in the Central Intelligence Agency.

Already Gen. Maxwell Taylor, retired, one of our best military minds who has had practical war-time experience in the cloak-and-dagger field, is hard at work reviewing several phases of present operations, including the training of guerrilla forces.

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And now Dr. James R. Killian Jr., first head of the board named by President Eisenhower, is called to head the permanent board. He also served as President Eisenhower's special science adviser after the launching of Russia's first Sputnik, but in some way dropped almost completely out of the news.

The speed with which President Kennedy is acting to find out just what is wrong with the CIA does not mean that he is, by indirection, indicting Director Allen Dulles for the Cuba catastrophe. Instead of passing the buck, the chief executive has accepted full responsibility for that grave mistake.

The signs are clear that his influence in CIA has been shaken, that he believes changes in operations and administration will be necessary.

There has been a tendency, one for the intelligence agency, expenditures of \$1 billion annually and 10,000 to 20,000 persons on payrolls, to become a power in itself. The watchdog group

named to check on its activities has almost gone out of business, and it is doubtful if anyone has known what was going on in secrecy except in a general way.

There are questions to be asked, such as what cooperation exists between this agency and the armed forces intelligence bodies, and how much Director Dulles may have assumed in the way of military authority. There are recollections of the U2 foul-up which can be attributed to Mr. Dulles using an army plane with a civilian, or mercenary, pilot, under Space Agency auspices, at the very time when such risks should have been avoided.

No agency of government should become an island unto itself, and Mr. Kennedy is moving to see that drift in this direction will be reduced to a minimum. Cold war defeats in the realm of intelligence can be as disastrous as those on fields of battle, it has been demonstrated; we cannot afford any more of them.

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There is wide respect for the wisdom of Dr. Killian, chairman of the corporation of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, just as there is for the brilliance of General Taylor. Between them, they should quickly spot CIA weaknesses, and submit a program for corrective action. Not only do they cover the fields of space and military developments, they are not static thinkers. If the CIA is ripe for new direction, General Taylor would fit the role admirably, though there has been no official hint that he is being primed for the position.